

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7094

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 2232

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SGEN, XM, PE

SUBJ: INTER-AMERICAN BROADCASTERS HIT PERUVIAN PRESS

EXPROPRIATION AND EXPRESS CONCERN OVER FUTURE OF

ARGENTINE BROADCASTING

THE EXECUTIVE GROUP OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RADIO BROADCASTERS (AIR)
MET IN MONTEVIDEO ON AUGUST 7 AND ISSUED A TEN POINT
DECLARATION WHICH IS PARAPHRASED BELOW.

(A) THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA ARE INSTRUMENTS OF
FREE EXPRESSION WHICH ARE INDISPENSABLE FOR THE MAIN-
TENANCE OF DEMOCRACY AND PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

(B) EXPROPRIATION OF MEANS OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION
IS EQUIVALENT TO THE CONFISCATION OF RIGHTS WHICH PERTAIN
DMNOT ONLY TO THE COMPANIES BUT ALSO TO THEIR AUDIENCES.
THE STATE SHOULD DEFEND SUCH RIGHTS RATHER THAN CONTROL
COMMUNICATIONS.

(C) AIR CONSIDERS THAT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT'S
EXPROPRIATION OF NEWSPAPERS, ALONG WITH THE GOP'S 1971
MOVE AGAINST RADIO STATIONS, HAS PUT THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE
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IN THE POSITION OF BEING UNABLE TO ENJOY FREE EXPRESSION.

(D) AIR DECLARES ITS ADHERENCE TO STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS SOCIETY (SIP), REAFFIRMING THE PANAMA DOCTRINE THAT AN ATTACK ON LIBERTY OR PERSONAL DIGNITY OR ON THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ALSO IS AN ATTACK AGAINST SIP AND AIR.

(E) AIR REQUESTS THAT THE COMMISSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF BOTH THE UN AND THE OAS TAKE NOTE OF THE FACTS TO WHICH THIS DECLARATION REFERS.

(F) AIR CALLS THE ATTENTION OF PUBLIC OPINION OF THE AMERICAS TO THE FACT THAT THE ONLY EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE THAT INSTRUMENTS OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION CAN SERVE PEOPLES IS BY THEIR CONTINUING AS SPONTANEOUS, REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC OPINION.

(G) AIR ASKS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU RECONSIDER THE MEASURES IT ADOPTED AND DECLARE THAT IT WILL NOT CURTAIL EFFORTS TO DEFEND THE LEGITIMATE PRINCIPLE OF FREE EXPRESSION.

(H) AIR EXPRESSES THE CONCERN OF THE CONTINENT OVER THE FUTURE OF PRIVATE BROADCASTING IN ARGENTINA, BASING THIS CONCERN ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL ORGANS AND TRADE UNIONS WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE LEGISLATION.

(I) AIR DECLARES THAT PERPETUATING AND INVIGORATING PRIVATE BROADCASTING STRENGTHENS THE ESSENCE OF DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS.

(J) AIR HOPES THAT, THROUGH DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES ADEQUATE MEANS WILL BE FOUND TO ASSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE PRIVATE BROADCASTING SYSTEM.
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